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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/757,738	01/09/2001	William L. Bong	ARC 01.002	7735

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EXAMINER

KERNS, KEVIN P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1725

DATE MAILED: 05/05/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/757,738	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BONG, WILLIAM L.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Kevin P. Kerns	<b>Art Unit</b> 1725	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 06 August 2003 and 26 April 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 August 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Objections***

1. Claim 13 is objected to because of the following informalities: in the 5<sup>th</sup> line of the claim, "conigured" should be changed to "configured". Appropriate correction is required.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Burden (US 3,243,568) in view of Wada et al. (US 4,208,564).

Burden discloses an electric welding process and apparatus for electroslag welding, in which an insulated consumable guide tube is comprised of elongated strips 41 and 42 (with front and back faces) and has plural longitudinal channels to receive welding wires (column 1, lines 11-14 and 53-72; column 2, lines 1-72; column 3, lines 1-25 and 54-71; column 4, lines 1-29; and Figures 1-10). The guide tubes would selectively be bare or given an insulating coating of slag forming material, and are selected in a plurality of arrangements in terms of dimensions and geometries, which

are illustrated in Figures 5 and 10, and would furthermore be selected as representatives of routine choices by one of ordinary skill in the art depending on welding conditions (column 4, lines 25-28; and Figures 5-10). The triangular shape limitation of claim 6 is considered to be representative of an arbitrary choice for the shape of the electrode guide cross section shown in Figure 9. Burden does not disclose the plural insulator modules.

However, Wada et al. disclose a nozzle structure of electrosag welding machines, in which nozzle plate 117 contains a plurality of insulator modules 120 (of varying numbers and heights, as shown in Figure 5), for the purpose of preventing a short circuit in the weld gap between the nozzle plate 117 and the surfaces of the planks to be welded (abstract; column 1, lines 9-13 and 53-68; column 2, lines 1-9; column 3, lines 39-52; and Figures 1-5).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the applicant's invention was made to modify the electric welding process and apparatus for electrosag welding, as disclosed by Burden, by adding the plurality of insulator modules, as taught by Wada et al., in order to prevent a short circuit in the weld gap between the nozzle plate 117 and the surfaces of the planks to be welded (Wada et al.; column 3, lines 39-50).

#### ***Response to Arguments***

4. The examiner acknowledges the applicant's amendment and proposed drawing corrections, both of which were received by the USPTO on August 6, 2003, and with a

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complete listing and status of claims received on April 26, 2004. The proposed drawing corrections to Figures 1b-1e and Figure 9 overcome prior objections to the drawings.

Claims 1-20 remain under consideration in the application.

5. Applicant's arguments filed August 6, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

With regard to the applicant's remarks on pages 6 and 7 of the amendment, the examiner respectfully asserts that their two major arguments are not commensurate with the scope of the claim limitations, which include the additional claim limitations in independent claims 1, 9, and 13 (see next paragraph). Regarding the prior art rejections under 35 USC 103(a), even when taken in view of the newly amended claims 1, 9, and 13, Burden only lacks the plural insulator modules, whereas Wada et al. disclose a plurality of insulator modules, both of which are operable in an electrosag welding environment.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., "insulating projections do not melt into the molten flux puddle" on page 6, and "the entire length" on pages 6 and 7) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

***Conclusion***

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dr. Kevin P. Kerns whose telephone number is (571) 272-1178. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tom Dunn can be reached on (571) 272-1171. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Kevin P. Kerns  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1725

KPK  
kpk  
April 30, 2004

Kiley Stoner Au 1725  
Kiley Stoner 5/3/04